

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 1757—Foreign Relations Authorization Act

H.R. 1758—European Security Act

H.R. 437—National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act



H.R. 1757—Foreign Relations Authorization Act

Floor Situation: The House will continue consideration of H.R. 1757 as its first order of business today. Although the House has been considering the bill under an open rule, unanimous consent was reached yesterday to debate only two additional amendments. The rule adopted by the House last week allows the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. The rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 1757 authorizes approximately \$6.12 billion in each of FY 1998 and FY 1999 for the State Department and related agencies. The FY 1998 level, which is equal to the amount agreed to by Congress and the president in the balanced budget plan, is about \$228 million less than the administration's request but \$225 million more than the level appropriated in FY 1997. The bill also contains provisions to eliminate the U.S. Information Agency, the International Development Cooperation Agency (IDCA), and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and consolidate their functions into the State Department, along with certain functions of the Agency for International Development. The bill was introduced by Mr. Gilman and Mr. Smith and was not considered by a committee.

Views (on the overall bill):

Republican Leadership: Supports

Chairman Gilman: Supports

Clinton Administration: No Position Available

Amendments: Yesterday, the House reached a unanimous consent agreement to consider only the following two amendments to H.R. 1757:

Mr. Gilman will offer an amendment to modify the bill's provisions to consolidate certain foreign affairs agencies into the State Department. The amendment, which represents a compromise that was reached with the administration, changes the date by which the president must submit a reorganization plan for consolidation from August 17, 1997, until 60 days after enactment. It moves back the deadlines for consolidating the agencies by approximately 45 days, mandating that ACDA and USIA be abolished by October 1, 1998, and that USIA and certain AID administrative functions be consolidated by October 1, 1999. Although the amendment still creates two undersecretaries of State to manage the functions of ACDA and USIA after the agencies are abolished, the amendment does not create any new assistant secretaries (the bill established four), allowing the president more flexibility in reorganizing agency functions within the State Department. Finally, the amendment eliminates bill provisions to (1) establish a transition fund and (2) require the president to submit a final accounting of the finances of the abolished agencies. *Staff Contact: Steve Rademaker, x5-5021*

Mr. Sanford will offer an amendment to reduce the authorized spending levels in the bill for FY 1998 and FY 1999 to the amount appropriated in FY 1997 (a reduction of approximately \$265 million). *Staff Contact: Holly Swanson, x5-3176*

Other Amendments. Under House rules, when a bill is reported to the full House by the Committee of the Whole, members may request a re-vote on an amendment that has been agreed to in the Committee. Under this procedure, votes may be demanded on the following amendments previously agreed to during floor consideration:

- * an amendment by **Mr. Serrano** which requires the Secretary of State to issue a report every three months listing all complaints by the government of Cuba to U.S. government agencies about actions taken by residents of the United States. *Staff Contact: Nadine Berg, x5-4361*
- * an amendment by **Mr. Goss** which eliminated bill provisions that established new responsibilities for the Office of the Inspector General at the State Department. The bill placed certain notification and reporting requirements on the Inspector General (IG) of the Department of State, USIA and ACDA by mandating that the IG, in the case of a formal interview, make a best effort to provide adequate notice to an employee who is the likely subject or target of a criminal investigation. Such notice included identification of those attending the interview (e.g., FBI Agents) and information about the employee's due process rights. Proponents of the amendment successfully argued that the bill language imposed significant, unprecedented limitations on the role and investigative prerogatives of the State Department's IG. *Staff Contact: Wendy Selig, x5-4121*

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #15, Pt. II, June 3, 1997.



H.R. 1758—European Security Act

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 1758 after it completes consideration of H.R. 1757. Last week, the House adopted, as part of the rule for H.R. 1757, a closed rule which provides one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the International Relations Committee. It provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions. Finally, the rule stipulates that, upon passage, the text of H.R. 1758 will be engrossed together with H.R. 1757 and sent to the Senate as a single bill.

Summary: The bill (1) declares that the door to membership in NATO should remain open to all emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe, and expresses the sense of Congress that the Baltic nations and Romania should be admitted to NATO; (2) declares that Congress will not approve international agreements that accord second-class status to new NATO members or impair the ability of NATO to defend them; (3) prohibits the implementation of “demarcation agreements” that have been negotiated with Russia under the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty unless those agreements are approved by Congress; and (4) authorizes a program of ballistic missile defense cooperation with Russia in order to create an atmosphere conducive to modifying the ABM Treaty. The bill was introduced by Mr. Gilman et al. and was not considered by a committee.

Views (on the overall bill):

Republican Leadership: Supports

Chairman Gilman: Supports

Clinton Administration: No Position Available

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #16, June 6, 1997.



H.R. 437—National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 437 after it completes consideration of H.R. 1758. On Tuesday, the Rules Committee granted an open rule providing one hour of general debate, with 40 minutes equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Resources Committee and 20 minutes equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Science Committee. The rule makes in order a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the *Congressional Record* as base text. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 437 reauthorizes the National Sea Grant College Program (NSGCP) through fiscal year 2000. The bill sets new authorization levels at \$54.3 million for FY 1998 (equal to the FY 1997 level), \$55.4 million for FY 1999, and \$56.5 million for FY 2000. The bill also (1) simplifies the definition of activities eligible for sea grant funding; (2) clarifies the responsibilities of sea grant colleges, the national program office, and the program director; (3) streamlines the grant process; (4) requires the national office to ensure that all research is peer-reviewed, and that all sea grant colleges follow those guidelines when awarding grants; (5) repeals the international grant program

(which has never been funded); and (6) caps NGSCP administrative expenses at five percent of appropriations. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 437 will result in additional discretionary spending of \$166 million over the 1998-2000 period, assuming appropriations are made available equal to the authorized amount. The bill was introduced by Mr. Saxton, reported by voice vote by the Resources Committee on March 5, 1997, and adopted by the Science Committee by voice vote on April 21, 1997.

Views (on the overall bill):

Republican Leadership: Supports

Chairman Young: Supports

Clinton Administration: No Position Available

Amendments: At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was not aware of any amendments to H.R. 437.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #16, June 6, 1997.

